

November 30, 2005

STIP Comments, Program Development
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

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Re: Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, Bethel

Thank you for the opportunity you have given to provide comments to the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for 2006-2008.

We, the undersigned, who are residents and/or business people in Bethel, do strongly object to the delay in beginning and completing the necessary reconstruction and refurbishment of the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway in Bethel as shown on the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. This is a project that should have been completed several years ago and should not be delayed any further.

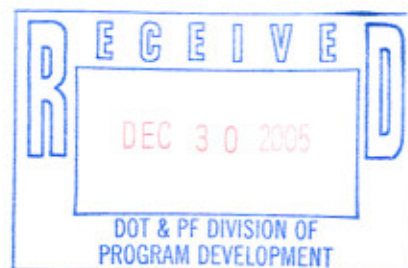
This highway has deteriorated to the point it is very unsafe for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The traffic counts available fail to reveal the high number of pedestrians who use the shoulders of this highway as a major walkway in Bethel. As the paved driving surface continues to deteriorate, these pedestrians are in greater danger of harm.

As the only paved link between the airport and river port in Bethel, it is essential that this highway be properly repaired and reconstructed so it can be maintained for all types of traffic. Since the design on this project has already reached the 65 percent level, we feel the project should continue with a priority status.

In addition to the safety issues involving the traveling public, there is a real danger to the health and wellbeing of many residents of our community because of the dusty conditions that prevail when the roadway dries. The asphalt surface of a large section of this road was removed to eliminate several large humps and dips as a result of subsurface movement. This temporary "fix" was done in anticipation of this project being completed during the 2006 construction season. Allowing this project to be postponed for another year will further exacerbate the extremely dusty condition on a very heavily traveled road. We find this unacceptable.

As stated above, we strongly object to the delay as it is shown in the draft STIP for the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway and strongly encourage the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to change the proposed status of this project to one of immediate priority and keep the completion of the improvements on schedule for completion in 2006.

CC: Governor Frank Murkowski
Senate President Ben Stevens
Representative Mary Kapsner
Senator Lyman Hoffman



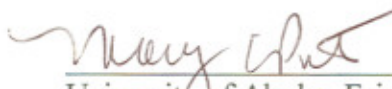
As stated above, we strongly object to the delay as it is shown in the draft STIP for the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway and strongly encourage the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to change the proposed status of this project to one of immediate priority and keep the completion of the improvements on schedule for completion in 2006.


Thank you for your consideration,


Association of Village Council Presidents

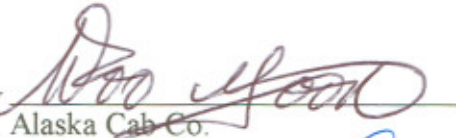

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Bethel Native Corporation


University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Kuskokwim Campus


Era Aviation


Kusko Cab Co.

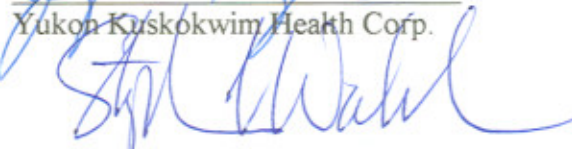

Alaska Cab Co.


Golden Eagle Transport


Southwest Fuels Inc.


AVCP Regional Housing Authority


Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.


Faulkner Walsh Construction


Alaska Housing Finance Corporation


Grant Aviation


Hageland Aviation


Quiana Cab Co., Inc.


Lower Kuskokwim School District


Hoffman Fuels, Inc.


Northstar Gas Co.